

Hattie Thomas/R7/USEPA/US

To

07/17/2012 04:15 PM

cc

bcc Karl Brooks

Subject OPA Daily Digest, 7/17/12

OPA Daily Digest for 7/17/12

Congressional Inquiries:

Rep. Jo Ann Emerson (Mo.) – Email – 7/16/12 – Questions about the status of lead remediation projects in St. Francois County. Due: 7/18/12. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Sen. Claire McCaskill (Mo.) – Phone inquiry – 7/6/12 – Requests a status update on the West Lake Landfill superfund site. Due: 7/10/12. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Rep. Todd Akin (Mo.) – Letter – 6/22/12: Questions about the Strecker Farms proposed development. Due: 7/9/12. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (closed)

State Government Inquiries:

None

Press Inquiries:

KSMU Radio – Michele Skalicky – 7/16/12: Questions about Missouri's impaired waters list. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (open)

KJAN Radio – Alan Miller – 7/17/12: Questions about Missouri's impaired waters list. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (closed)

IDNR Iowa Outdoors Magazine, Des Moines, Iowa – Mindy Kralicek – 6/22/12: Questions about the EPA Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training application process. Contact: Belinda Young, 7463 (closed)

KOAM Channel 7, Joplin, Mo. – Angela Greenwood – 7/17/12: Questions about citizen concerns related to disposal of hospital demolition debris. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

St. Louis Post-Dispatch – Jeff Tomich – 7/17/12: Questions regarding Stage II vapor recovery systems in St. Louis metropolitan region. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (closed)

Environmental Stories:

Worthington Daily Globe, Minnesota - Editorial: Cleanup time in Iowa - 7/17/12 - It seems as if Iowa may have its own ideas about heeding edicts from the federal Environmental Protection Agency.
<http://www.dglobe.com/event/article/id/58596/>

KWQC, Quad Cities - Land Dispute Over Proposed Hog Confinement Site - 7/16/12 - Tri-Oak Foods is expanding its operations, with plans to build three new hog confinement plants in Muscatine County, two in Conesville, Iowa and one in Nichols, Iowa.
<http://www.kwqc.com/story/19038757/land-dispute-over-proposed-hog-confinement-site>

Columbus Telegraph - Corn concerns put users at odds - 7/17/12 - LINCOLN — The state's largest

livestock organization called Monday for a waiver on federally mandated ethanol production as a way to stretch out what could be a small 2012 corn crop.

http://columbustelegram.com/news/local/corn-concerns-put-users-at-odds/article_cfdfdf6c-d00a-11e1-9641-001a4bcf887a.html

Inside EPA - Vehicle GHG Rule Goes to White House - 7/17/12 - EPA has sent its draft final rule to limit greenhouse gases (GHGs) from passenger vehicles for model years (MY) 2017-2025 to the White House Office of Management & Budget (OMB) for interagency review, clearing the way for the administration to issue the measure in the midst of the election campaign.

<http://insideepa.com/201207172404716/EPA-Blog/The-Inside-Story/vehicle-ghg-rule-goes-to-white-house/menu-id-97.html>

KMZU, Carrollton - EPA and State Don't Agree - 7/16/12 - EPA has released its proposed decision on Missouri's 2012 list of impaired waters. EPA is approving Missouri's listing of 253 waters as impaired, and the removal from the list of 66 water bodies. The Agency is requesting public comment on its proposed decision to restore a total of 10 water bodies and corresponding pollutants to Missouri's 2012 impaired waters list. <http://www.kmzu.com/epa-and-state-dont-agree/>

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Mississippi River runs low as drought grips St. Louis region - 7/16/12 - Since little rain has fallen, Mississippi River water levels have continued sinking. Operators up and down the Mississippi, are tying up their fleets. Others are loading less tonnage on more boats, managing to ply the water with lower weight.

http://www.stltoday.com/business/mississippi-river-runs-low-as-drought-grips-st-louis-region/article_1c2da1c6-cf9b-11e1-962b-0019bb30f31a.html

Reuters - Drought worsens crop damage, raising world food, fuel worry - 7/16/12 - Corn and soybeans in the U.S. Midwest baked in an unrelenting heat wave on Monday with fears rising of big crop losses that will boost food and fuel prices and cut exports and aid from the world's top shipper of the key crops. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/07/17/us-usa-drought-idUSBRE86F1D420120717>

Kansas City Business Journal - Lyric Opera of Kansas City cues up solar panels - 7/17/12 - The Lyric Opera of Kansas City is working with Solar Link US Inc. to install solar panels at its new facility in the Crossroads Arts District.

<http://www.bizjournals.com/kansascity/news/2012/07/17/lyric-opera-of-kansas-city-cues-up.html>

Kansas AG Network (blog) - AG Schmidt fights against lawsuit that seeks more EPA regulations - 7/16/12 - Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt late last week asked a federal court in Louisiana to let Kansas participate in a pending lawsuit that threatens to impose new environmental regulations on Kansas farmers and ranchers. <http://kansasagnetwork.com/?p=29729>

The Washington Post - Gina McCarthy: The EPA is carefully considering jobs vs. pollution -

7/14/12 - George F. Will's July 8 op-ed column ["What price clearer air in parks?"] omitted and distorted significant facts.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-epa-is-carefully-considering-jobs-vs-pollution/2012/07/14/gJQAQXQkkW_story.html

St. Louis Business Journal - All Missouri counties designated disaster areas from drought -

7/17/12 - U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack on Tuesday designated all 114 counties in Missouri as primary natural disaster areas, following a request by Gov. Jay Nixon. Because it is contiguous to St. Louis County, the city of St. Louis is included in the designation.

<http://www.bizjournals.com/stlouis/news/2012/07/17/all-missouri-counties-designated.html>

Omaha World-Herald - EPA: Feedlots can't profit from pollution - 7/14/12 - Some Iowa animal feeding operations' failure to comply with rules against discharging livestock waste into rivers, lakes and streams gave them an economic advantage over competitors, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says. <http://www.omaha.com/article/20120714/NEWS/707149913/1016>

Reuters - Nebraska farms ordered to halt irrigation amid drought - 7/16/12 - More than 1,100 farmers in Nebraska have been ordered by the state's Department of Natural Resources to halt irrigation of their crops because the rivers from which they draw water have dropped due to a worsening drought.
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/07/16/us-usa-drought-nebraska-idUSBRE86F0XP20120716>

Omaha World-Herald - Windfall from first Keystone pipeline falls short - 7/15/12 - When TransCanada officials began promoting the benefits of its first pipeline to cross Nebraska, they projected a \$5.5 million tax windfall for the state in the first year of operation. The actual tax bill for the original Keystone pipeline is less than half that figure.
<http://www.omaha.com/article/20120715/NEWS/707159928/1016>

Greenwire - Exploration booming in Neb. - 7/16/12 - Regions of Nebraska are now seeing some of the oil enthusiasm that has been booming in North Dakota in recent years.
<http://www.eenews.net/Greenwire/rss/2012/07/16/16>

The Hill - Republican-led House panel keeps 'activist' EPA in its crosshairs - 7/16/12 - Republicans in the House Energy and Commerce Committee say they have more work to do to "rein in the activist" Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) before the congressional session ends.
<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/238183-rep-upton-lays-out-house-gop-energy-priorities>

Tulsa World - Coal's slump viewed as long-term trend - 7/16/12 - Billionaire Wilbur Ross, who built a company from distressed U.S. coal assets and sold it last year for \$3.4 billion, says the industry's current slump differs from earlier setbacks and may last for years because of the shale-gas boom.
http://www.tulsaworld.com/business/article.aspx?subjectid=49&articleid=20120717_49_E4_CUTLIN296807

Huffington Post - Opinion: Will the Tea Party Destroy an American Industry to Weaken President Obama? - 7/17/12 - Wind energy has been one of the fastest growing sectors of the American economy, even during the Recession. One of the key financing tools for wind developers, the Production Tax Credit, expires at the end of the 2012. The Tea Party Republican Leadership seems determined to let the PTC expire to hurt Obama's re-election chances.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/carl-pope/will-the-tea-party-destroy_b_1673397.html

Greenwire - Court upholds EPA's revamped NO2 standard - 7/17/12 - A federal appeals court today rejected industry challenges to U.S. EPA's most recent nitrogen dioxide air quality standards. The unanimous three-judge panel ruled that EPA's move was not arbitrary and capricious and did not violate the Clean Air Act. On a separate question over EPA's plan for implementing the standards, the court punted, saying the statement was not final agency action and therefore not subject to review.
<http://www.eenews.net/Greenwire/rss/2012/07/17/1>

Inside EPA - EPA Resists Industry In NSR Appeal - EPA is fighting power industry arguments that a recent Supreme Court holding limits the deference an appellate court can grant to the agency in a high-profile appeal of an adverse new source review (NSR) ruling.
<http://insideepa.com/201207172404697/EPA-Blog/The-Inside-Story/epa-resists-industry-in-nsr-appeal/menu-id-97.html>

Inside EPA - EPA Blocks States' Bid To Permit Utilities' Diesel Generators As Major Source - 7/17/12 - EPA is resisting calls from state officials for the agency to "aggregate" emissions from hundreds of diesel generators, which utilities use in their demand response programs, as a single source of pollution subject to strict "major" source Clean Air Act permits.
<http://insideepa.com/201207172404710/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/epa-blocks-states-bid-to-permit-utilities-diesel-generators-as-major-source/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - Lawmakers Press Legislation To Allow Judicial Review Of Agency Science - 7/17/12 - A bipartisan group of House lawmakers is pushing legislation that would subject EPA and other agencies'

risk assessments and other scientific documents to judicial review while also raising data quality standards for agencies' science.

<http://insideepa.com/201207172404712/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/lawmakers-press-legislation-to-allow-judicial-review-of-agency-science/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - Citing EPA's Haze Plans, GOP Allows States To Target 'Sue And Settle' Rules -

7/17/12 - Backed by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and state officials, Republicans have expanded their upcoming legislation seeking to curb regulatory deadline settlements between EPA and environmental groups by allowing states to easily intervene in the settlement litigation alongside private parties that the bill already allows to intervene.

<http://insideepa.com/201207172404715/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/citing-epas-haze-plans-gop-allows-states-to-target-sue-and-settle-rules/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - Chromium MACT Sent To OMB - 7/17/12 - EPA has sent for White House Office of Management & Budget (OMB) pre-publication review its final rule revising air toxics standards for chromium electroplating plants and other facilities, a regulation that has drawn attacks from activists who say it fails to adequately limit harms from hexavalent chromium (Cr6).

<http://insideepa.com/201207172404736/EPA-Blog/The-Inside-Story/chromium-mact-sent-to-omb/menu-id-97.html>

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

7/16-18/12 – Budget Forum, Washington D.C. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

7/19/12 – Tribal Caucus/EPA Joint Session, Lawrence, Kan. Contact: Wolfgang Brander, 7381

7/24-26/12 – Lead Task Force Meeting and Site Tour, Jefferson City, Mo. Contacts: Cecilia Tapia, 7733 and Julia Cacho, 7071

7/27/12 – Environmental Conference at the Lake, Osage Beach, Mo. Contacts: Julia Cacho, 7071 and David Cozad, 7587

7/27/12- Lincoln University Water Boot Camp Certificate Ceremony, Jefferson City, Mo. Contacts: Kris Lancaster, 7557 and Monica Espinosa, 7541

9/10/12 – Bayer CropScience Community Advisory Panel, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Rich Hood, 7906

11/19/12 – 2012 Kansas Association of Conservation Districts Annual Conference, Wichita, Kan. Contacts: Karen Flournoy, 7782 and Julia Cacho, 7071

RA/Immediate Office

7/18/12 - Attend National Tribal Operations Council (NTOC), Washington, DC. Contacts: Dana Peters, 7444 and Wolfgang Brandner, 7381

7/19/12 - Attend Spring EMC Meeting, Washington, DC Contact: Dana Peters, 7444

8/13-17/12 - ORD Lead Region Transition Planning Meeting with Region 10, Corvallis, Ore. Contacts: Ron Hammerschmidt, 7566 and Dana Peters, 7444

9/11- 12/12 - Attend Hypoxia Meeting, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Josh Svaty, 7202

9/13/12 - Attend National Association of State Departments of Agriculture Meeting, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Josh Svaty, 7202

Other Events

AWMD

7/26/12 - Attending Missouri Air Conservation Commission public meeting, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Amy Bhesania, 7147

7/31/12 - Attending the Cooper Nuclear Plant exercise, Brownsville, Neb. Contact: Robert Dye, 7605

8/1/12 - Attending Pollution Prevention Intern report-outs, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Marcus Rivas, 7669

8/7/12 - Attending Pollution Prevention Intern report-outs, Lincoln, Neb. Contact: Marcus Rivas, 7669

8/9/12 - Giving presentation at the Oak Grove Neighborhood Association meeting, Kansas City, Kan. Contact: Mark Smith, 7876

CNSL

None

ECO/EJ

***7/26/12** - Boys and Girls Club Summer Camp, Olathe, Kan. Contact: Michael Minor, 7539

8/9/12 - Oak Grove Neighborhood Association Mini-Series, Kansas City, Kan. Contact: Tamara Freeman, 7094

9/13/12 - Oak Grove Neighborhood Association Mini-Series, Kansas City, Kan. Contact: Tamara Freeman, 7094

10/11/12 - Oak Grove Neighborhood Association Mini-Series, Kansas City, Kan. Contact: Tamara Freeman, 7094

ENSV

7/22-30/12 - ORD/U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) sampling event, Omaha, Neb. Contact: Brenda Groskinsky, 7188

7/31 - 8/2/12 – Meeting with the incoming Lead Region Coordinators and the National Program Directors, Washington, DC. Contact: Tony Petruska, 7637

PLMG

8/1-2/12 - Sustainable Communities Building Blocks code audit workshops in Dallas Center, Woodward and Van Meter, Iowa. Contact David Doyle, 7667

8/8/12 - Sustainable Communities Building Blocks code audit workshop in Hays, Kan. Contact David Doyle, 7667.

RA/OPA

7/18/12 - Table Top Exercise for Amber Waves 2012, Kansas City, Mo. Contacts: Beckie Himes, 7253, Ben Washburn, 7364.

7/19/12 - Public Availability Session, Pools Prairie Superfund Site, Neosho, Mo. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364

***7/25-26/12** – Missouri Lead Task Force Tour and Meeting, Jefferson City, Mo., and Meramec State Park, Sullivan, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394

7/26/12 – Public Availability Session, Iowa-Nebraska Light & Power Site, Norfolk, Neb. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 and Owens Hull, 7726

SUPR

7/17-18/12 Site visit and Restoration Advisory Board meeting, Iowa Army Ammunition Plant, Burlington, Iowa. Contact: Sandeep Mehta, 7763

7/18/12 - Table Top Exercise for Amber Waves 2012, Kansas City, Mo. Contacts: Robert Dye, 7605 and James Johnson, 7058

WWPD

7/15-20/12 - American Federation of Government Employees annual conference, Silver Springs, Md. Contact: Morris Holmes, 7421

7/18-20/12 - Kansas Corporation Commission Program Review, Wichita, Kan. Contacts: David Garrett, 7159 and Kurt Hildebrandt, 7413

7/18-20/12 - 27th Annual Heartland Operators Conference presentation, Kearney, Neb. Contact: Robert Bryant, 7354

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